

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#66-33 Building Date: 1926

Building Name: College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

Location: 4813 Calvert Road, College Park, Maryland

Public/Archives Storage/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building is a one-story front-gabled building constructed of concrete block, painted white. It is two bays by three, and entrance is in the first bay of the two-bay north gable front. The only decorative feature of the building is the shaped parapet of brick which serves as a facing on the principal north gable front. Entrance is in the first bay of this north front, through a six-panel wooden door. The second bay consists of a large single-pane picture window flanked by narrow sidelights with louver openings. Both door and window are slightly inset within the brick facing, both surmounted by a horizontal band of concrete which serves as a lintel. The gable roof is covered with green asbestos shingle. A lower one-story addition, also of concrete block, has been built onto the south(rear) gable end of the building; a plain brick chimney stack rises from the shed roof of this addition. Immediately behind (south of) the building is a tall metal siren tower, with the antique (1927) siren device still in place.

Significance:

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building has been a familiar feature in the College Park community since 1926. The Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1925 through the efforts of the College Park Home and School Association. In 1926, College Park developer Elmore Power donated a lot on the south side of Calvert Road to be used for the erection of a fire house for the town's newly organized fire department. This building was constructed and opened in August of that year. In 1927 the present siren tower was erected. In 1945 the City of College Park was incorporated, and in the next year a new Fire Service Extension Building was established on the campus of the University of Maryland. The subject building, temporarily empty, was subsequently used as a polling place, and as an interim town hall for the new municipality. Remodeled in 1969, it is now used as a meeting hall, storage area, and display room for the historical archives of the Fire Department. Although altered, it represents the early history of the College Park Fire Department, and is a familiar local feature.

Acreage: 7000 square feet

College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

PG#66-33

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Firehouse/Town Hall/Archives

Design Source: unknown

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4813 Calvert Road ___ not for publication

city, town College Park ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of College Park

street & number 4500 Knox Road telephone no. 301- 277-3445

city, town College Park state and zip code MD 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 1023

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 145

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#68-33

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building is a one-story front-gabled building constructed of concrete block, painted white. It is two bays by three, and entrance is in the first bay of the two-bay north gable front. The only decorative feature of the building is the shaped parapet of brick which serves as a facing on the principal north gable front.

Entrance in the first bay is through a six-panel wooden door. Immediately to the right (west) of the door is a wooden plaque which reads:

"First Fire House of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department Organized 1925 Now used as an all-purpose building, housing the Historical Archives".

Immediately west of the plaque is a large three-part window: a large single-pane picture window flanked by narrow sidelights with louver openings. Both door and window are slightly inset within the brick facing, both surmounted by a horizontal band of concrete which serves as a lintel.

The gable roof is covered with green asbestos shingle. The three bays on the west long side of the building are lighted by 1/1 windows. On the east side, the windows in the two northerly bays are similar, but a side (rear) door forms the first (southernmost) bay; immediately north of this side door is a small window at a higher level which lights a small bathroom.

There is a low one-story shed-roof addition, also of concrete block, has been built onto the south (rear) gable end of the building; a plain brick chimney stack rises from the shed roof of this addition.

The interior of the building is very plain. There is a dropped ceiling, tile covers the concrete slab floor, and partitions are formed of drywall.

Immediately behind and south of the building is a tall metal siren tower, with the antique (1927) siren device still in place.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#⁶⁶~~68~~-33

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building has been a familiar feature in the College Park community since 1926. It was constructed and opened in August of that year, nearly a year after the establishment of the Volunteer Fire Department. After it was replaced by a larger building in 1946, it served temporarily as the College Park Town Hall, and since 1970 has housed the archives of the Volunteer Fire Department.

The establishment of the Volunteer Fire Department came about largely through the efforts of the College Park Home and School Association, whose president in 1925 was William Holbrook (see #66-21-31). In that year, the Association undertook to organize a fire company for the growing community of College Park. Henry B. McDonnell, Dean and professor of Chemistry at the University of Maryland and resident of College Park (see #66-21-10), was appointed the first Chief of the new Fire Department, which went into service in November 1925. Through his connection with the University, McDonnell was able to make some firefighting equipment available to the new department. The volunteers met during the early months in a barn (no longer standing) located on one of the residential lots in College Park.¹

In 1926, College Park developer Elmore Power donated a lot on the south side of Calvert Road to be used for the erection of a fire house for the town's newly organized fire department. The new firehouse was completed in August 1926. A stream flowed through this lot, and a bridge had to be built

¹ A History: College Park Volunteer Fire Department, 1925-1975: College Park, Maryland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG #⁶⁶~~68~~-33

Cf. Deeds (Prince George's County) #242:252, #1023:145

See Notes, Item 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ca. 7000 sq. ft.Quadrangle name Washington EastQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lot 18, Block 1, of Elmore Power's Additional to College Park

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization Prince George's CountyHistoric Preservation Commissiondate June 1993street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drivetelephone (301) 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#66-33

Section 8 Page 2

over it to allow movement of equipment.²

During the first year, a bell attached to the fire house was used to summon the volunteers. In May 1927 the present siren tower was erected, but the siren had to be activated by hand. By early 1930, a telephone connection was made which allowed the siren to be activated by the nearby Berwyn telephone operator.³

The City of College Park was incorporated in 1945. In 1946, a new building, the Fire Service Extension Building, was built on the campus of the University of Maryland, and all firefighting equipment was moved to the new location. The small building on Calvert Road was temporarily empty; it was subsequently used as a polling place, and as an interim town hall for the new municipality.⁴

In 1959 a new Town Hall was built, and the building on Calvert Road was again empty. It was later used by supporters of the preservation of the College Park Airport in the initial stages of the restoration of that facility.⁵

Two additions have been made to the College Park Volunteer Fire Department Building since it was constructed in 1926. It was remodeled in 1969, and is now used as a meeting hall, storage area, and display room for the historical archives of the Fire Department.⁶ Although altered and in somewhat deteriorating condition, this modest building represents the early history of the College Park Fire Department, and is still a familiar feature in the community.

² A History: College Park Volunteer Fire Department, 1925-1985: College Park, Maryland. Update of 1975 publication, published in 1985.

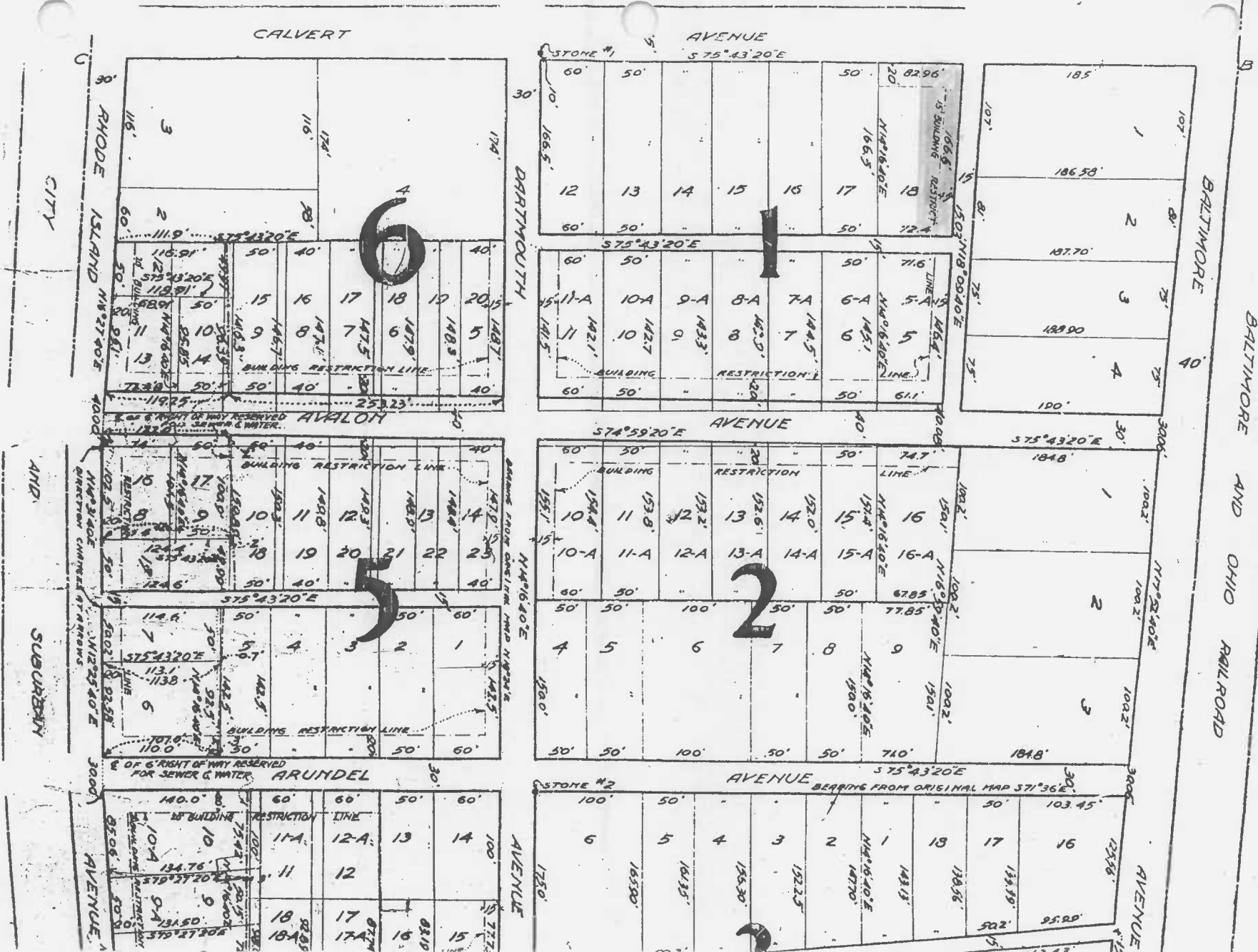
³ ibid.

⁴ ibid.

⁵ ibid.

⁶ ibid. Additional information about the history of the College Park Volunteer Fire Department was provided by Frank G. Leser, Jr., interviewed in September 1991 by (then) M-NCPPC employee Marina King.

PG: 66-33



66-35-2

BALTIMORE AVE

SYCAMORE

LOT J

LAKELAND

BALTIMORE AVE

ISLAND AVE

PAINT BRANCH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PA

7628

PARCEL B
28 A

PARCEL A

PG# 66-33

1

0806

1008

7972

JOHNSON

0806

9708

CURRIDEN'S

SUBDIVISION OF

ASHFORD &
KELLY'S SUB
OF COLLEGE PARK

COLLEGE

PARK

COLL. PARK PROFESSIONAL
CENTER CO-OPINUM

CITY OF COL.
PARK
5371/443
3.73A P.59

COLLEGE
PARK HOMES

ELMORE POWER'S ADD. TO COLL. PARK

BOARD OF REGENTS
UNIV. OF MD.

QUILFORD

COLLEGE PARK HOMES

FORDHAM

P.94

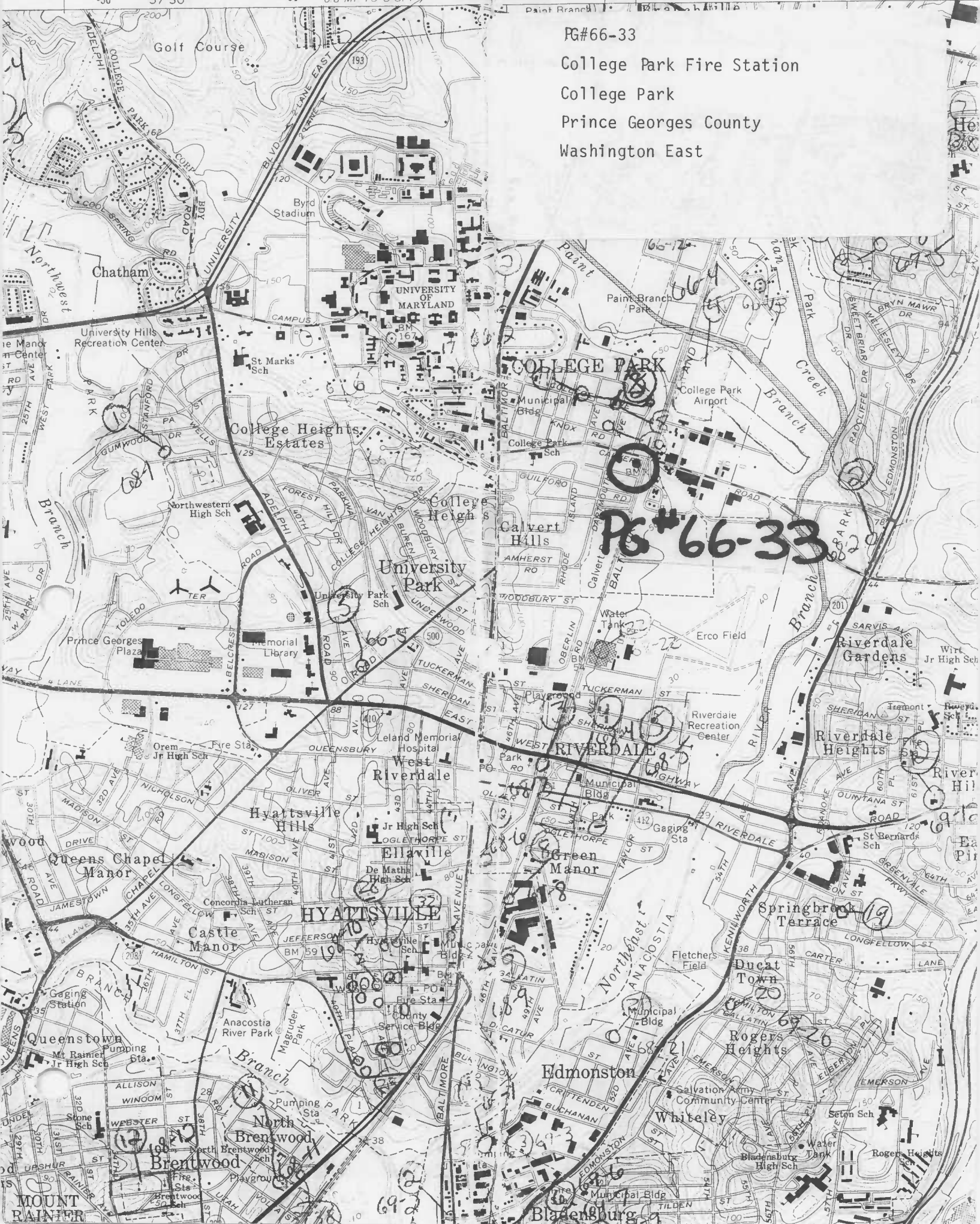
PG#66-33

College Park Fire Station

College Park

Prince Georges County

Washington East





PG # 66-33

Calley Park Vol Fire Dept.

PG Co Md.

Jessie L. Pearl

May 1992

Md SHPO

N fax code

1 of 3



Pl. # 66-33

College Park Nat. Serv. Dept.

PG Co. Maryland

Sen. St. Paul

May 1992

Mid. SHPU

Arch (rear) elevation

3 of 3

First
FIRE HOUSE
of the
COLLEGE PARK
Volunteer Fire Dept.

ORGANIZED 1925

*Now used as an all purpose
building, housing the*
**HISTORICAL
ARCHIVES**

PG # 66-33

P.G. Co., Md
College Park Vol Fire Dept.
Susan H. Pearl
June 93
Md SHPO

6/93
Sgp
Plaque on N. facade
2 of 3